## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of:

Daniel P. Becker, et al.

Serial No:

**TBA** 

Filed:

September 5, 2003

For:

Aromatic Sulfone Hydroxamic Acids and Their Use as Protease Inhibitors

Group Art Unit:

Attorney Ref:

TBA

Examiner:

**TBA** 3316/0A/US

HDP Ref:

6794-000005/DVC

Divisional application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/142,737 (filed May 10, 2002; group art unit 1625, Examiner Zinna Northington Davis)

September 5, 2003

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT A

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, SIR/MADAM:

The above-referenced patent application enclosed herewith is a divisional application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/142,737 (filed May 10, 2002). Applicants request that this Preliminary Amendment be entered into the above-referenced divisional application.

Amendments to the specification begin on page 2.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 17.

Remarks begin on page 47.